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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 13 January 1949

SUBJECT Russian Request for Nomination of German Parties' Representatives

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. In early December, a request was made by the respective Soviet political liaison officers to the political parties, including the Nationale Demokratische Partei and the Peasants' Party, to submit four nominations each for a body which was to have "representative character for all of Germany". It was explained that the plan was not intended for the creation of a parliamentary body like the Volksrat but rather for the selection of specialists for specific assignments. Names were to be submitted within three days but no further action was taken. Pieck claimed the SED had no knowledge of this affair.
2. The party chairmen were informed shortly after Christmas that the submission of these names was requested merely for information and was not to be interpreted as a step towards possible creation of an Eastern German Government. On the contrary, such a speculation could be described as absurd so long as the deliberations in Bonn have not led to the formation of a Western German Government, which now seemed likely to be long delayed.
3. The discussion inspired the last question of an interview of Pieck in the "Neues Deutschland" of 30 December. Pieck denied that the SED had any intention of setting up an Eastern German Government. "Die Neue Zeit" and "Der Morgen" are said to have been rebuked for handling this interview.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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